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China's capabilities in 2015 Tomsk Polytechnic University

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Abstract

In 2015 China will increase its military spending to \$ 141.45 billion, which means a growth of 10.1% against 2014. China's budget defence costs are the highest second only to the Pentagon's. The low growth rate has once again indicated the slowdown of China's economy; still its authorities are adamant on the transition from the fast-growing development model to a more moderate, but quality one. The number of private companies exceeds the number of state companies. However, the data presented in the annual report of the Prime Minister show that China remains a strong economy and a major player in the global market.

Keywords: China, USA, Space, Technology, Military, Politic

1. Introduction

China is committed to wealth and power. The authorities want China to become more influential internationally and still more independent from foreign countries, with its ultimate goal being to preserve the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and political system of the country.

2. Space Program

The space program of the People's Republic of China is directed by the China National Space Administration (CNSA). Its technological roots can be traced back to the late 1950s, when the People's Republic started a rudimentary ballistic missile program as a response to alleged American (and, later, Soviet) threats. However, the first Chinese crewed space program only began several decades later, when an accelerated program of technological development culminated in Yang Liwei's successful 2003 flight aboard Shenzhou 5. This achievement made China the third country to send humans into space by itself. Its current plans are to launch a permanent Chinese space station in 2020 and send crewed expeditions to the Moon and Mars [7].

US China Economic and Security Review Commission, an expert committee of the US Congress, presented a report developed by the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation at the University of California. The report was published early in March, 2015. Hearings of this report in the Congress were held on February 18, 2015. The report emphasizes China's ambitions to

improve its military capabilities in space, which, they believe, will affect negatively the military security of the United States [1].

China's long-term plans involve the transformation of the international system of relations in the way that better serves China's interests. In the short term, China is seeking to integrate into the existing format of international relations with the view of creating a political map of the Asia-Pacific region, according to its interests [7].

The development of China's space program goes in line with this strategy. China views the development of its capabilities in space as an essential step for a country that aims to strengthen its force. China's goal is to become a space power on a par with the US, Europe, and Russia, and achieve the level of the space industry development, which is not inferior to that of the US. China's plans of using the space program to further enhance its military, economic and technological power could undermine the leading position of the US.

China has made impressive progress in space technologies since 2000. At present China has an extensive array of satellites for various purposes, including communication satellites, satellite positioning systems, remote probing satellites with multiple resolution capabilities and observation spectra. In addition, it implements a variety of programs for manned and unmanned space exploration [2].

The development of the space program is intended to provide the information superiority of the People's Army of China, which implies the free use of information, as well as opportunities to stop potential adversaries from accessing to and using this information. Having analysed the US military operations, military experts of China consider space to be the key to the victory in information wars. The majority of military experts regard space as a "key strategic dominant height", which, as a consequence, makes the process of space militarization inevitable [5].

China's analysts believe that space, being a paramount bridgehead, will play a crucial role in future wars, and must be controlled. Many Chinese experts claim that aerospace supremacy ensures the priority of a strategic initiative.

According to the US Department of Defence, China has an extensive program of space technology development, which include devices that suppress signals, direct attack air defence interceptors, directed energy weapon, interorbital spacecraft. The military part of China's space program involves the development of a wide range of opportunities to neutralize the satellites and space vehicles by using a variety of weapons in all orbits [7].

3. Figures

According to Fu Ying, an official representative of the National People's Congress, China's military expenditure in 2015 is estimated to be increased by 10%. The previous year military spending in China amounted to \$ 132 billion, with an increase of 12.2% against 2013 [3].

Business activity of the processing industry in China in February stepped up, although with a drop in export demand. The purchasing manager's index in the manufacturing industry of China, published by the National Bureau of Statistics, rose to 49.9 points in February from 49.8 points in January, thus remaining in the negative zone.

According to the director of the People's Bank of China Lu Lei, China's GDP in 2015 will grow by 7.1%, with consumer prices rising by 1.8%. In 2014, China's GDP increased by 7.4%, which was the lowest rise since 1990. The current year's GDP growth target is 7% [3].

4. Goals

The PRC's space program covers both short-term and long-term goals [4]. Its short-term goals are:

- to build a long-term earth observation system;
- to set up an independent satellite telecommunications network;
- to create an independent satellite navigation and positioning system;
- to provide commercial space launch services;
- to set up a remote sensing system;
- to promote space exploration sciences such as microgravity, space materials, life science and astronomy;

China's long-term goals are to:

- strengthen their standing in the world of space science;
- launch a crewed space station;
- launch crewed missions to the moon;
- establish a crewed Moon base;
- to send unmanned mission to Mars [4].

5. Conclusion

This article focuses on the issues of that China has ambitious aims to explore the space area. In October 2007, China has launched a 3-stage Lunar program. On the night of January 13, 2015, Chinese unmanned spacecraft module was launched to perform tests necessary for the development of the technology of lunar landing, which is planned to be performed after 2020. China plans to send manned missions to the Moon in around 2020 and set up a lunar base by 2050, if the USA don't resume similar plans and Russia, Europe, Japan, and India procrastinate [6].

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